Project for Coastal Conservation and Management

2199. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for Coastal Conservation and Management Project;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) that latest position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India in consultation with Government of Gujarat has initiated an Integrated Coastal Zone Management project in the year 2006 with the assistance of the World Bank. The above project includes prepartation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for Gulf of Kachchh, capacity building and control of pollution from land based activities of the coastal waters.

Tiger population

2200. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) with India's tiger population declining whether Government has approved the takeover of eight new forest areas under its flagship Project Tiger;

(b) the steps taken to protect the Royal Bengal Tigers in Sunderban in West Bengal; and

(c) the amount so far allotted to protect them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Approval has been accorded for eight new tiger reserves spread over seven States, based on proposals received and as recommended by the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003. Details are given in statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect tiger are at Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Central Assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger provided to Sunderban Tiger Reserve during the last three-plan periods are at Statement-III.

Statement-I

List of the New Tiger Reserves

Sl. No.	Name of the new Tiger Reserves	State
1.	Annamalai-Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries	Tamil Nadu & Kerala
2.	Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries	Chhattisgarh
3.	Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary	Orissa
4.	Kaziranga National Park	Assam
5.	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	Chhattisgarh
6.	Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park	Karnataka
7.	Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

Statement-II

Details of steps taken by the Government to protect tiger

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conseveration Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.
2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. The revised Project Tiger Guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communites involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.
8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1971, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan', addressing issue relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/ fringe area).

10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

11. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by State under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation to tiger, co-predators and prey animals.

Statement-III

Details of Control Assistance under Project Tiger

VIIIth Plan Period

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Sunderban	30.615	36.5860	36.930	45.705	66.730

IXth Plan Period

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	1997-78	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Sunderban	38.95	121.09	80.77	45.00	90.97

Xth Plan Period

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Sunderban	138.33	172.72	274.74	129.6863	121.30

Forest infrastructure for conservation of wildlife

2201. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that even as the poaching of tigers, elephants, rhinos and other endangered species is on the rise, more than 17,000 posts of forest personnel are lying vacant in different parts of the country;

(b) whether the Forest Ministers' conference at Coimbatore emphasized the strengthening of the forest infrastructure for conservation of wildlife;

(c) if so, the reasons for keeping so many posts vacant and giving the poachers free run in the reserved forests; and

(d) the time-frame when these posts would be filled and area, region, state-wise vacancy position in the forest department?